Kerala where many are registered under NREGS and chances of creation of community assets under Panchayat land are scare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(d) the alternate steps taken to provide jobs within five kilometers for families that are registered in Panchayats located in plantation areas of Kerala under the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) In accordance with NREG Act it is for the Gram Sabha and the Ward Sabhas to recommend work to Gram Panchayat for identification of the projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under NREGS. The works to be taken up have to be from the list of permissible activities as laid down in Section I of Schedule I of NREG Act. Workers living in plantation areas and possessing job cards under NREGA are eligible to get employment on NREG works. In case a worker is provided employment out side a radius of 5 kilometers, he is entitled for 10% extra wages under the existing provisions of the Act. Draught proofing (including Afforestation and tree plantation) is a permissible activity under NREGA. Similarly, horticulture plantation on land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or to Below Poverty Line Families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of the Government of India is also a permissible activity under NREGA.

Institution of awards for civil society organisations

744. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to institute awards for civil society organizations (NGOs) for ensuring effective implementation of the NREG Scheme;

(b) whether the award will be separate of panchayat, district and State levels; and

(c) the number of rural households and districts covered under NREGS till December, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Till December, 2007, 330 districts are covered under NREGS. It is a demand driven programme. All households in the rural areas of these 330 districts are entitled to get themselves registered under the Act on demand. Up to December, 2007, 27556430 households had demanded employment out of which 27296363 households had been provided employment.